Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services Initiative

The Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services initiative—supported by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice—expands the vision and impact of the crime victim assistance field. Initiated in 2013, Vision 21 was the first comprehensive examination into the crime victims field in 15 years. Vision 21 projects engage a broad spectrum of service providers, advocates, criminal justice professionals, allied practitioners, and policymakers to address crime victim issues through a lens broader than their everyday work.

Visit www.ovc.gov/vision21 to learn more. Turn over for just one example of how OVC is implementing Vision 21 in the field.
Project Vision

OVC’s Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services Final Report and the Attorney General’s National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence both found that our Nation’s children and youth continue to experience crime and victimization at alarming rates, these young victims remain underserved, and the systems charged with caring for them provide fragmented and ineffective responses for children and their families.

OVC wants to learn how to bring healthcare, child welfare, justice, and other systems together to coordinate and align efforts to ensure a timely and seamless response to young victims, their families, and caregivers, no matter the system of entry.

Project Objectives

This 6-year multicomponent demonstration project is designed to—

• identify and promote healing for victims of crime;
• provide or coordinate prevention and intervention services to youth and families experiencing trauma and victimization; and
• build capacity within communities to meet the needs of youth exposed to violence.

Project Participants

Montana and Virginia were competitively selected to bring together relevant systems and professionals to provide early identification, intervention, and treatment for child and youth victims and their families and caregivers. The state demonstration sites will work strategically and collaboratively to ensure that prevention and intervention services are determined by the needs of the family, and that community resources are provided with holistic and coordinated intent. Sustainable practices and policies will be established for long-term use and potential replication in other communities.

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges will provide ongoing training and technical assistance to the two demonstration sites. Coordinated strategies to identify, intervene, and treat child and youth victims, their families, and caregivers will be planned and developed.

ICF International is conducting an evaluation of this project, with funding from the National Institute of Justice, to determine project impact, effectiveness, and lessons learned.

For more information, contact OVC at askovc@ncjrs.gov and identify the name of the Vision 21 project in the subject line of your email.